



Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

Additional Information and Resources

Problem

- Recent statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) estimate that 100,000 children are sold for sex each year within the United Statesⁱ. Hundreds of cases of exploited children go unreported.
- It is further estimated that 300,000 U.S. children are at risk for becoming victims of commercial sexual exploitationⁱⁱ.
- Many victims of sex trafficking have been molested, raped, and sexually assaulted by a family member or close family friend — 95% of “teen prostitutes” were victims of earlier childhood sexual abuse.

(<http://www.prevent-abuse-now.com/stats>)

CALIFORNIA AND FEDERAL LAW ON CSEC

California and Federal Law define **human trafficking** similarly:

California Law

All acts involved in the recruitment, abduction, transport, harboring, transfer, sale or receipt of persons, within national or across international borders, through force, coercion, fraud or deception, to place persons in situations of slavery or slavery-like conditions, forced labor or services, such as forced prostitution or sexual services, domestic servitude, bonded sweatshop labor, or other debt bondage.

Federal Law

Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY EFFORTS

On September 24, 2013, a Board motion, introduced by Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Knabe, was approved to establish a county-wide multi-agency response model to combat the sex trafficking of children in Los Angeles.

The Sex Trafficking Task Force and the Departments of Probation, Children and Family Services (DCFS), Public Social Services (DPSS), Mental Health (DMH), Public Health (DPH), Health Services (DHS) and Sheriff are working together to create a model and implementation plan for victims of sex trafficking.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Succeeding Through Achievement and Resilience (“STAR”) Court: A specialized court (Los Angeles Superior Court) for CSEC-identified youth providing supervision and support throughout the forensic system, in placement and into the community.
- The Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) Compton Teen Task Force provides outreach assistance to DCFS-involved youth who are victims or survivors of CSEC to ensure they receive DCFS collaborative services upon identification.
- Juvenile Justice System: L.A. County Probation Department has dedicated full-time officers to work with CSEC-identified youth. These Probation officers provide intensive supervision, court support, assessment and aftercare to program participants.
 - The Probation Department is also credited with instituting a 48-hour protocol for CSEC-identified youth.

**DMH efforts are highlighted on “CSEC Fact Sheet.”*

Visit link on Transition Age Youth (TAY) webpage for details.

LINKS FOR FURTHER READING

State of California, Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General (Human Trafficking)
<https://oag.ca.gov/human-trafficking>

National Coalition against Domestic Violence
Human Trafficking Facts
<http://www.ncadv.org/files/HumanTrafficking.pdf>

California Child Welfare Council
Ending The Commercial Sexual Exploitation Of Children
http://www.youthlaw.org/fileadmin/ncyl/youthlaw/publications/Ending-CSEC-A-Call-for-Multi-System_Collaboration-in-CA.pdf

i. U.S. Department of Justice, The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Efforts to Combat Crimes Against Children.
Available at: <http://www.justice.gov/oig/reports/FBI/a0908/final.pdf>.

ii. University of Pennsylvania, U.S. National Study: The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.
Available at: http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/restes/CSEC_Files/Complete_CSEC_020220.pdf.